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Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
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EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN, PFOR, IR
SUBJ: SECRETARY' S AUDIENCE WITH SHAH OF IRAN
REF: TEHRAN 4063

FOLLOWING IS APPROVED SUMMARY OF SECRETARY' S JUNE 9 MEETING
WITH SHAH OF IRAN IN TEHRAN:

SUMMARY: THE SECRETARY, ACCOMPANIED BY SISCO AND HELMS,
HAD HOUR AND FORTY MINUTES AUDIENCE WITH SHAH ON 9 JUNE.
SUBJECTS COVERED RANGED WIDELY TO INCLUDE SHAH' S RECENT
TRIP, DETENTE IN EUROPE, OIL AND GAS, PAKISTAN AND THE
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SUBCONTINENT, IRAN- IRAQ RELATIONS, US ARMS TO SAUDI ARABIA AND KUWAIT, ARAB- ISRAELI IMPASSE, AND CENTO AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO INDIAN OCEAN. GREECE WAS NOT DISCUSSED.

1. AFTER PHOTOGRAPHS AND NORMAL AMENITIES, SHAH TOUCHED ON HIS RECENT TRIP, DEVOTING SOME MINUTES TO YUGOSLAVIA WHICH HE BELIEVES HAS THE POSSIBILITY OF BECOMING AN IMPORTANT EUROPEAN COUNTRY IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS OR SO. HE REMARKED ON HOW " FIT" TITO APPEARED AND REFERRED TO HIS ENERGY AS " AMAZING" IN MAN OF HIS AGE. HE AND SECRETARY EXCHANGED VIEWS ABOUT ROMANIA AND ITS LEADERSHIP AFTER WHICH SHAH MENTIONED THAT BULGARIA APPEARS MOST TIGHTLY TIED TO SOVIET UNION OF EAST BLOC COUNTRIES HE HAS VISITED. HE NOTED BULGARIA' S DEVELOPMENT OF A REASONABLY SOPHISTICATED ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY.

2. AFTER TOUCHING ON THE NECESSITY OF FAMILY PLANNING IN IRAN WITH A CURRENT POPULATION OF 31 MILLION, 50 PERCENT OF WHICH IS 15 YEARS OF AGE OR UNDER, SHAH PASSED ON TO A DISCUSSION OF DETENTE IN EUROPE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION. HE NOTED THAT THE RISK THE US RUNS IS IN BEING OBLIGED TO BRING AMERICAN TROOPS HOME. THE SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT THE DANGER FOR THE SOVIETS LAY IN OPENING UP THEIR SOCIETY TO THE EXTENT WHICH WAS REQUIRED BY THIS DETENTE. HE ALSO EXPRESSED HIS CONCERNS ABOUT CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES WITH RESPECT TO THE MAINTENANCE OF AMERICAN TROOPS IN WESTERN EUROPE. THE SHAH NOTED HIS OPINION THAT ONCE THE UNITED STATES GETS OUT OF EUROPE, IT WILL NEVER SEND MILITARY FORCES BACK THERE WHEREAS THE SOVIETS CAN ALWAYS BE BACK IN CENTRAL AND WESTERN EUROPE WITHIN 24 HOURS. HE THEN MENTIONED HIS TALKS WITH HEATH AND BRANDT ALONG THE LINES THAT PEACE IN EUROPE IS DIRECTLY LINKED WITH THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST. AS HE PUTS IT, IF A REGULAR SUPPLY OF OIL DOES NOT FLOW TO EUROPE FROM THE MIDDLE EAST, EUROPE COULD COLLAPSE WITHOUT FIRING A SHOT. HE FEELS THAT BOTH HEATH AND BRANDT HAVE GOT THE MESSAGE, I. E., THAT SOMETHING MUST BE DONE TO BRING ABOUT A RESOLUTION OF THE ARAB- ISRAELI STALEMATE.

3. AT THIS JUNCTURE THE SECRETARY CONGRATULATED THE SHAH

ON THE SIGNING OF THE OIL AGREEMENT ON MAY 24. THE SHAH EXPRESSED HIS PLEASURE AT THE OUTCOME AND NOTED THAT IRAN AND WEST GERMANY ARE NEGOTIATING AN ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY 500,000 BARRELS PER DAY OF IRANIAN REFINED PRODUCTS WILL BE SOLD TO WESTERN GERMANY. HE THEN SPOKE OF IRAN' S GAS RESOURCES STATING " IRAN HAS TWICE AS MUCH GAS AS ALL OF THE ARAB STATES COMBINED." THOUGHT IS BEING GIVEN TO

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BUILDING A PIPELINE TO THE TURKISH BORDER AND ON TO ISKENDERUN. A MORE AMBITIOUS PROJECT WOULD HAVE THIS GAS PIPELINE CONTINUE ON TO EUROPE THROUGH YUGOSLAVIA, TRIESTE AND BRANCHING OUT FROM THERE TO WESTERN EUROPE. HE NOTED CERTAIN CONVERSATIONS WITH JAMIESON OF EXXON ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF PIPING SAUDI ARABIAN GAS TO IRAN AND HITCHING IT INTO SUCH A PIPELINE. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE SHAH IS MORE PLEASED ABOUT HIS ARRANGEMENTS ON GAS IN THE NEW AGREEMENT WITH THE CONSORTIUM THAN ON ANY OTHER ASPECT. HE IS PUSHING THE SALE OF LNG TO JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES.

4. AFTER EXPRESSING HIS WELL- KNOWN VIEWS ABOUT SUB-VERSION IN THE PERSIAN GULF AND THE MAINTENANCE OF PAKISTAN INTEGRITY, THE SHAH REFERRED TO A RECENT CONVERSATION BETWEEN MARSHAL GRECHKO AND THE IRANIAN WAR MINISTER DURING WHICH GRECHKO' S QUERIES ABOUT IRAN' S PURCHASE OF ARMS FROM THE UNITED STATES WERE GREETED WITH THE COMMENT THAT ONE MAY ONLY PURSUE A POLICY OF PEACE FROM A POSITION OF STRENGTH. TO THIS MARSHAL GRECHKO WAS OBLIGED TO AGREE. THE SHAH POINTED OUT THAT THE STRONGER HIS COUNTRY BECOMES, THE WISER HIS POLICIES ARE PERMITTED TO BE. HE NOTED TO THE SECRETARY THAT HE TOLD KOSYGIN THAT IRAN COULD " CRUSH IRAQ IN A FEW HOURS," A FACT OF LIFE WHICH KEPT IRAQ FROM ADVENTURES AGAINST IRAN. HE FEELS THAT THE ONLY THING WHICH KEEPS IRAQ FROM SHELLING THE ABADAN REFINERY OR OTHER DEPREDATIONS IS THE KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT IRAN COULD DO IN RETALIATION. HE ALLUDED TO A POINT WHICH HE HAD COVERED IN GREATER DETAIL IN AN EARLIER CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR, THAT IS, IRAN CAN AFFORD ARMS PURCHASES ON THE SCALE ENVISAGED, BECAUSE IT IS SPENDING AS MUCH MONEY AS MAKES SENSE ON DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENT. AS AN EXAMPLE, THE SHAH POINTED OUT THAT IF HE WERE TO TAKE MONEY FROM THE MILITARY TO BUILD HOSPITALS, HE COULD NOT FIND OR TRAIN

THE DOCTORS AND NURSES TO MAN THE HOSPITALS. HE SAID THAT THERE ARE 1200 IRANIAN DOCTORS PRESENTLY IN WEST GERMANY WHO HAVE BEEN TRAINED THERE AND WHO LIKE THE BRIGHT LIGHTS AND BLOND GIRLS. HE FEELS THAT THEY WILL GRADUALLY COME BACK TO IRAN, BUT THERE IS NO WAY OF FORCING THEM AT THE MOMENT. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE 4,000 IRANIAN NURSES IN NEW YORK CITY ALONE, AND HE POINTS OUT THERE IS NO COUNTRY KNOWN TO HIM WHICH HAS ENOUGH NURSES AT PRESENT, THEREFORE HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO IMPORT THEM IF HE WANTED TO. PUT ANOTHER WAY, THE SHAH BELIEVES THAT TWO YEARS OF MILITARY TRAINING EITHER ON DIRECT MILITARY WORK OR IN THE HEALTH AND LITERACY CORPS INCULCATES A KIND OF DISCIPLINE WHICH THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF HIS COUNTRY NEED.

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5. THE SECRETARY AND THE SHAH DISCUSSED MILITARY AID TO PAKISTAN. THEY AGREED THAT THE PAKISTAN ARMED FORCES WERE A " RUSSIAN SALAD" MADE UP OF US, BRITISH, FRENCH, CHINESE, AND
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